

# LAWS50116 Law and Social Change

<b>Credit Points:</b>	12.50																																				
<b>Level:</b>	5 (Graduate/Postgraduate)																																				
<b>Dates &amp; Locations:</b>	2012, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: June, Parkville - Taught on campus. Semester 2, Parkville - Taught on campus.																																				
<b>Time Commitment:</b>	Contact Hours: To be confirmed. Total Time Commitment: 144 hours.																																				
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	<p>Entry to the subject is competitive, and permission is required from the coordinator before enrolment. At a minimum, students will need to have completed the subjects below to be eligible for enrolment in Lawyering in the Public Interest:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Subject</th> <th>Study Period Commencement:</th> <th>Credit Points:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>LAWS50023 Legal Method and Reasoning</td> <td>February</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50024 Principles of Public Law</td> <td>Semester 1</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50025 Torts</td> <td>Semester 2</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50026 Obligations</td> <td>Semester 1</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50027 Dispute Resolution</td> <td>Semester 1</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50028 Constitutional Law</td> <td>Semester 2</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50029 Contracts</td> <td>Semester 2</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50030 Property</td> <td>Not offered 2012</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50031 Legal Theory</td> <td>November, Semester 2</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50032 Administrative Law</td> <td>Semester 1</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LAWS50034 Criminal Law and Procedure</td> <td>Semester 1</td> <td>12.50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Subject	Study Period Commencement:	Credit Points:	LAWS50023 Legal Method and Reasoning	February	12.50	LAWS50024 Principles of Public Law	Semester 1	12.50	LAWS50025 Torts	Semester 2	12.50	LAWS50026 Obligations	Semester 1	12.50	LAWS50027 Dispute Resolution	Semester 1	12.50	LAWS50028 Constitutional Law	Semester 2	12.50	LAWS50029 Contracts	Semester 2	12.50	LAWS50030 Property	Not offered 2012	12.50	LAWS50031 Legal Theory	November, Semester 2	12.50	LAWS50032 Administrative Law	Semester 1	12.50	LAWS50034 Criminal Law and Procedure	Semester 1	12.50
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<b>Corequisites:</b>	None.																																				
<b>Recommended Background Knowledge:</b>	None.																																				
<b>Non Allowed Subjects:</b>	None.																																				
<b>Core Participation Requirements:</b>	<p>The Melbourne Law School welcomes applications from students with disabilities. It is University and Law School policy to take all reasonable steps to enable the participation of students with disabilities, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the School's programs. The inherent academic requirements for the study in the Melbourne Law School are: The ability to attend classes and actively engage in the analysis of complex materials and debate; The ability to read, analyse and comprehend complex written legal materials and complex interdisciplinary materials; The ability to clearly and independently communicate in writing a knowledge and application of legal principles and interdisciplinary materials and critically evaluate these; The ability to clearly and independently communicate orally a knowledge and application of legal principles and interdisciplinary materials and critically evaluate these; The ability to work independently and as a part of a group; The ability to present orally and in writing legal analysis to a professional standard. Students must possess behavioural and social attributes that enable them to participate in a complex learning environment. Students are required to take responsibility for their own participation and learning. They also contribute to the learning of other students in collaborative learning</p>																																				

	environments, demonstrating interpersonal skills and an understanding of the needs of other students. Assessment may include the outcomes of tasks completed in collaboration with other students. Students who feel their disability will prevent them from participating in tasks involving these inherent academic requirements are encouraged to contact the Disability Liaison Unit: <a href="http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/">http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/</a> .
<b>Contact:</b>	Melbourne Law School Student Centre Email: <a href="mailto:law-studentcentre@unimelb.edu.au">law-studentcentre@unimelb.edu.au</a> (mailto:law-studentcentre@unimelb.edu.au) Tel: +61 3 8344 4475
<b>Subject Overview:</b>	<p>Law and Social Change provides a practical, clinical experience in which students support public interest lawyers in the delivery of pro bono legal services. Students will undertake 10 days of clinical placement with a partner organisation in the community sector. On placement, and under expert supervision, students will utilise the legal knowledge and skills acquired during their degree to undertake work on real legal issues and with real clients, and in doing so, will be exposed to the realities of community legal practice. The placement will either be in an intensive two-week format or one day per week for 10 weeks.</p> <p>Prior to commencing with their host organisation, students will participate in three days of intensive classes to prepare for their placement, including learning new legal practice skills and about relevant areas of law. This will be complemented by classes during the placement period. In these classes, students will reflect on their ongoing clinical experience as well as engage with scholarship relevant to public interest law practice in Australia. This combination of practical placement and academic support will allow students to consider and reflect on the broader contexts in which legal issues arise, the lawyer's role and relationship with the delivery of justice and contemporary developments in professional practice.</p> <p>A central component of the subject is that students critically reflect on their practical experience of public interest lawyering. The reflection serves several purposes. Firstly, it gives students the opportunity to consider how the issues and ideas raised in the scholarship on public interest lawyering are reflected in their practical experience of this area of law. On an individual level, it also provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their own use of legal skills, knowledge and approach to practice and consequently build on these skills, knowledge and competencies.</p>
<b>Objectives:</b>	<p>A student who successfully completes this subject will have a sophisticated insight into, and be able to reflect critically and meaningfully on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># historical and theoretical perspectives on the concept of public interest law in an Australian and global context;</li> <li># the capacity of law and lawyers to create social, economic and political change;</li> <li># the scope, composition, capacity, limits and challenges of the legal assistance sector in Australia;</li> <li># the techniques of public interest lawyering and the differences between public interest lawyering and other forms of lawyering;</li> <li># the ethical questions which arise from practising public interest law;</li> <li># the effectiveness of the public interest law movement in Australia, including as a source of social change; and</li> <li># the practical and technical skills and ethical awareness needed to practise effectively in the community sector, including in the areas of research and advocacy, communication, file management and organisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment:</b>	Satisfactory performance on placement (hurdle requirement) 4000 word written research assignment (60%) Short written reflective exercises (2000 words in total) (40%)
<b>Prescribed Texts:</b>	Specialist printed materials will be made available from Melbourne Law School.
<b>Breadth Options:</b>	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
<b>Fees Information:</b>	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, <a href="http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees">http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees</a>
<b>Generic Skills:</b>	<p>Upon successful completion of the subject, students will have developed and demonstrated the following skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># Ability to engage in high-level analysis and critical reflection on the range of challenging questions arising in the field of public interest law;</li> </ul>

- # Interpersonal and communication skills to gather information, understand interests and context, and convey complex legal concepts to a non-legal audience (including clients) in a way that is useful and effective;
- # Cognitive and technical skills relating to the generation and provision of legal advice and information attuned to clients' needs;
- # Cognitive skills in understanding the significance of the interrelationship of facts and law, and an appreciation of the place for legal and non-legal responses to clients' problems;
- # Ability to learn from encountering different perspectives, and to recognise the extent to which students' own beliefs, values and experiences inform their understanding of the purpose and relevance of legal practice within the community context.
- # Ability to work cooperatively and professionally in a public interest law organisation; and
- # Skills required for effective workplace performance, such as communication, time management, and office organisation.